

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 067512

15

ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 DODE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RSE/EE - IMATUSEK:LM
APPROVED BY INR/RSE - KENNETH A. KERST
EUR/EE - JABAKER
EUR/WE - RDVINE

----- 077278

R 032336Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067512

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS PFOR, IT, YO
SUBJECT: ITALO-YUGOSLAV FLARE-UP OVER TRIESTE

1. THERE FOLLOWS INR ASSESSMENT OF ITALO-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE
OVER TRIESTE:

(A) BACKGROUND. THE 1954 LONDON MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING INITIALED BY ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, UK AND US
AND ACCEPTED BY THE USSR, ASSIGNED THE ADMINISTRATION OF
ZONE A OF THE UNREALIZED FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE TO ITALY
WHILE ENTRUSTING ADMINISTRATION OF ZONE B TO YUGOSLAVIA.
WHILE YUGOSLAVIA RATIFIED THE MEMORANDUM, ITALY NEVER DID.
NEVERTHELESS, BOTH PRINCIPALS HAVE SINCE BEEN CONSISTENT
IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS IN DECLARING THEMSELVES SATISFIED
WITH THE ARRANGEMENT, EXCEPT FOR MINOR TERRITORIAL
ADJUSTMENTS IN THE DEMARCATION LINE. IN OCTOBER 1957
A JOINT ITALO-YUGOSLAV COMMISSION SIGNED DOCUMENTS ON
THE FINAL DELIMITATION OF THE LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN
THE TWO FORMER ZONES.

(B) IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 067512

YUGOSLAV EFFORTS TO CONFIRM AND MAKE PERMANENT THE

TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO, FOR INSTANCE, IN A BILATERAL TREATY WITH ITALY. WHILE SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD -- THE LAST BETWEEN FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC AND FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI IN DUBROVNIK IN MARCH 1973 --

THE ITALIAN SIDE CONTINUED TO CLAIM THE TIME INOPPORTUNE FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS. DESPITE GOOD ITALO-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, TEMPERS FLARED ON OCCASION, E.G., IN 1964 WHEN YUGOSLAVIA POSTED BORDER SIGNS IN ZONE B, ONLY TO REMOVE THEM FOLLOWING ITALIAL PROTEST, OR WHEN TITO CANCELED HIS TRIP TO ITALY IN 1970 FOLLOWING A PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATION WHICH ELICITED FOREIGN MINISTER MORO'S STATEMENT THAT ITALY DID NOT RENOUNCE ITS LEGITIMATE NATIONAL INTERESTS IN ZONE B.

2. PRESENT IMBROGLIO EXCEEDS MOST PRECEDING ONES IN SEVERITY OF YUGOSLAV REACTION. WHILE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, THE DISPUTE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY THE ERECTION BY YUGOSLAVS OF SIGNS ON THEIR SIDE OF DEMARCATION LINE IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. THERE FOLLOWED A REPORT FROM ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN KOPER (CAPODISTRIA), IN FORMER ZONE B, TO THE FARNESINA ON THIS EVENT AND ARTICLES IN TRIESTE NEWSPAPERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, FARNESINA ON FEBRUARY 16 DELIVERED NOTE OF PROTEST TO BELGRADE WHICH CLAIMED ZONE B WAS ITALIAN TERRITORY. THIS NOTE WITH WITHDRAWN TWO DAYS LATER ONLY AS A RESULT OF YUGOSLAV OBJECTIONS TO THE ITALIAN FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITALIAN FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO RESIDUAL ITALIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN ZONE B. IT WAS, HOWEVER, RESUBMITTED IN PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED FORM ON MARCH 11. THE ESCALATION OF YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL, MEDIA, AND PUBLIC REACTION ENSURED.

3. WHAT IS IMPLIED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS COROLLARY INFORMATION ON SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA SUGGESTS THAT: (A) YUGOSLAVIA TECHNICALLY TRIGGERED THE DISPUTE BY PUTTING UP ITS BORDER SIGNS KNOWING FULL WELL THAT ITALY WOULD REACT; (B) TITO, WELL AWARE THAT HIS LIFE-SPAN IS SHORT AND WISHING TO LEAVE A CLEAN SLATE FOR HIS SUCCESSORS, DECIDED TO TEST ITALY'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 067512

REACTION IN THIS FASHION, HAVING BEEN FRUSTRAED IN EARLIER EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE ISSUE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS; (C) THE DOMESTIC SITUATION APPEARS ALSO TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE YUGOSLAV REACTION. THE SPECTRE OF A FOREIGN THREAT TO YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY SERVES, AS IN NUMEROUS PREVIOUS INSTANCES, TO UNIFY THE YUGOSLAV POPULACE AND ESPECIALLY THE PARTY WITH A PARTICULAR VIEW TO THE FORTHCOMING TENTH PARTY CONGRESS AT THE END

OF MAY; (D) BY MARCH, THE SIGNS WERE STILL THERE AND PRESSURE WAS APPARENTLY INCREASING IN TRIESTE (WITH THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF RIGHT-WINGERS OF ANY AREA IN THE COUNTRY). THE TENSE ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

INVOLVING NOT ONLY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES BUT ALSO THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF A GOVERNMENT CRISIS WHICH BROKE OUT MARCH 2, POSSIBLY INDUCED THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO ACT HASTILY TO DISARM RIGHT WING PRESSURE BY MEANS OF A NOTE TO THE YUGOSLAVS. THIS HAD BEEN DONE IN THE PAST AND THE SIGNS HAD COME DOWN. THIS TIME, THE ITALIANS USED LANGUAGE IMPLYING A CONTINUED CLAIM TO ZONE B AND ALSO APPARENTLY MISJUDGED THE YUGOSLAV POLITICAL SITUATION. NOW THAT THE DIE IS CAST, IT WILL BE HARD FOR THE ITALIANS TO BACK DOWN; (E) NEITHER IS YUGOSLAVIA LIKELY TO BACK OFF WITHOUT A FACE-SAVING FORMULA, FEARING THAT IT MIGHT GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS WITH POTENTIAL TERRITORIAL CLAIMS (E.G., BULGARIA, ALBANIA).

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF ADDRESSEES ON ANY ASPECT OF THIS ASSESSMENT. EMBASSY BELGRADE SHOULD FOCUS ESPECIALLY ON INTERACTION OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN FACTORS. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, BORDER INCIDENTS, PARTITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE067512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IMATUSEK:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740075-0922
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740469/aaaaculum.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALO-YUGOSLAV FLARE-UP OVER TRIESTE
TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO
To: BELGRADE ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005